

Minority representation sought

by Kelly D. Smith

Minority representation among faculty and staff members of Dubuque's tri-college is sorely lacking according to Ralph Watkins, minority student counselor at The University of Dubuque and president of the Dubuque National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. "Minorities are not well represented in the Dubuque community or the tri-college school system," said Watkins. "We are not practicing what we preach in our institutions."

Currently, in addition to Watkins, UD employs one other black person, Loras College employs two and Clarke has no minority faculty or staff members. Charles Taylor, coordinator of the minority student office and moderator for the interracial club at Loras, feels that the absence of minority faculty and staff poses a "tremendous disservice to black students on campus. If kids have no one to turn to, no whom they can relate to," says Taylor, "then many may become withdrawn or go away feeling empty."

Taylor said that in his four years at Loras, "a challenging four years," he has seen a big change in the attitudes of black students at both Loras and UD since the hiring of minority staffers. "The kids have changed. They're more confident and their personalities are better."

However, Taylor says that some of the black students he has encountered from Clarke emanate a "hard personality." He said it was easy to tell from talking with them that there were no minority faculty or staff members. "Clarke needs to get a great service for the kids."

Despite Taylor's assessment, sophomore Don Burks says he feels very comfortable and has been well received at Clarke. "Everyone has been very friendly to me, and the atmosphere at Clarke is great, although I think there are some teachers that think the only reason blacks are here is to play sports. They should not stereotype us that way."

Racism in Dubuque

As president of Dubuque's NAACP, Watkins says he feels there is "quite a bit of racial tension in Dubuque," as evidenced by two cross-burnings within a two-month period.

According to Watkins, Dubuque ranks eighth in the nation as having the lowest percentage of minorities of its population—less than 2.5 percent.

In addition to the cross-burnings, several accounts of what Watkins called "hate acts" have occurred and continue to take place in Dubuque. Last year there were 400 reported hate acts in the nation—65 in the Midwest alone, says Watkins. "The use of words like nigger, spic or chick [referring to women] should be dealt with severely. There should be zero tolerance for such language in our schools."

Watkins personally felt the sting of racism in Dubuque when he was asked to produce four pieces of identification containing his picture to cash a check at the Foot Locker in Kennedy Mall. "Normally they won't ask for an I.D. for purchases under \$50. But you know why they are requesting it, especially when you've just seen someone else [a white customer] make the same purchase and not be asked for a single I.D. Who has four I.D.'s with their picture on them?" said Watkins.

Likewise, Taylor says he, too, has sensed the apprehension in community members when coming in contact with a black person. "Dubuque is very interesting," says Taylor. "I am fairly well received in some places; in others it's easy to detect that they have never had contact with a black person. People here need to be educated and exposed to our way of life."

When returning a movie to Eagle Foods, senior Monique Whittington said she was stared down and overheard an elderly couple say, "Oh my God, is that girl black? That's a colored girl."

Senior Keith Sanders says "It's time for Dubuque to wake up and become more accepting of minorities. 'I'm not sure if Dubuque is ready to get along with many blacks yet.' Sanders says he notices that people stare when he is off campus. "I don't know if they stare at me because I'm black or

because I'm wearing my basketball jacket. They're curious as to what we're here for."

Sanders said that he, personally, has never been harassed but that "when blacks or anyone hear racist language they should stand up and say, 'Hey, that's not right,' even if they may be just making a joke."

Proposed solutions

Watkins advocates that a task force be established to work with race relations. "We should have continual development of multiracial groups," said Watkins. "This should be a priority among faculty, staff and students."

Sensitivity training and recruitment of all minorities, not just blacks, should also be a major focus in the community, says

Watkins. "We're fighting to get multiracial education in the public schools' curriculum. We need to educate the people and make them understand that 'trigger words' can hurt."

Taylor feels there is a need for a cultural center for minority students. "Minorities need to be accommodated," he said. "Right now, there is no place, no atmosphere available, that they can call their own and be amongst themselves."

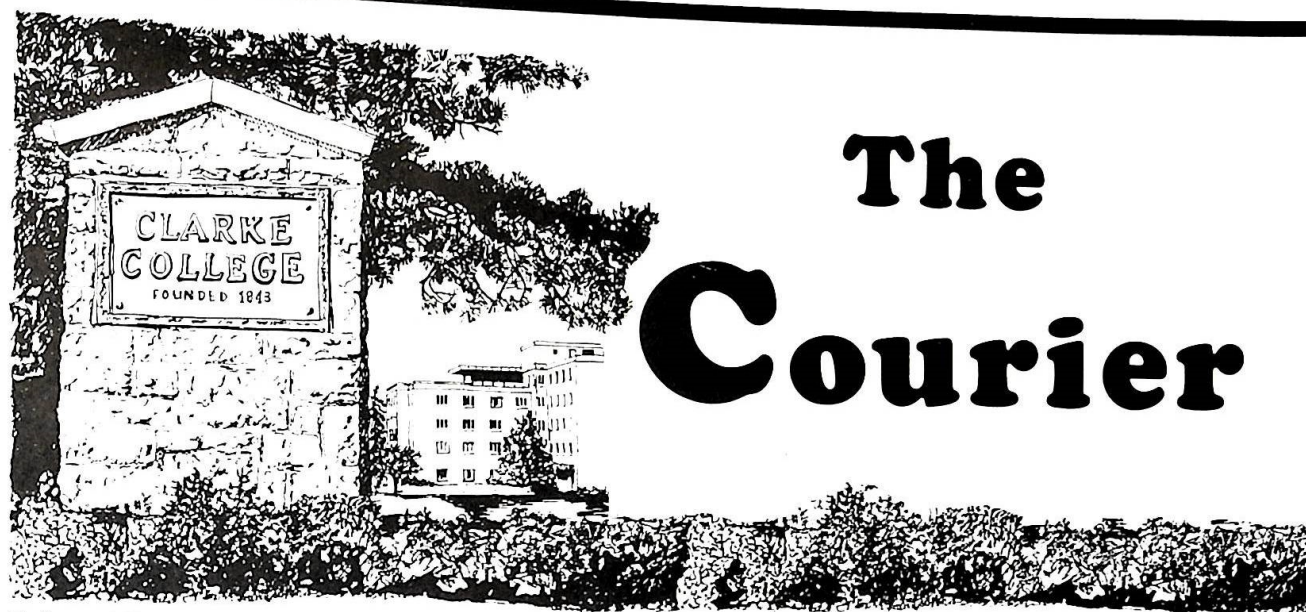
The start of the NAACP chapter is a start in the right direction, said Taylor, for making people aware of minority concerns. But he said more should be done to attract minorities to the area. "There should be more minority faculty members and more available financial assistance for prospec-

tive minority students."

According to Whittington, attempts were made to bring an Hispanic counselor to Clarke. Unfortunately, the individual turned down the position, citing that he felt discrimination practices in housing would be detrimental to his family.

An attitude change among community members is necessary too, says Taylor. "We need to have more minorities in upper-level management in the schools as well. Let's make it apparent to students that there are minorities holding prominent positions who can effect change."

"We have a ways to go, and it starts by having minority figures on the campuses." **Note: This is the first in a series on race relations on Dubuque's campuses.**



'She Loves Me' set for March 10-12

Lease directs hit musical

by John Siegworth

Clarke's music department is presenting a musical, "She Loves Me," next week in the music hall, with two performances March 11 and 12 and a dinner theatre Friday, March 10.

Performances are at 8 p.m. The dinner theatre begins at 6:30 p.m. in the atrium, with desert served during intermission. Tickets for the musical are \$5, and tickets for the dinner theatre are \$15 for one or \$25 for two. For reservations call 588-6329 between 1 and 5 p.m.

A special dinner theatre for students only will be Thursday, March 9, with dinner at 6 p.m. and the performance at 7:30 p.m. Dinner will be \$2 with foodcard or \$5 cash.

The show will be free for students on Thursday only. Clarke square will be closed for this performance.

The show is directed by Associate Professor John Lease and stars Brian Brueck and Darcy Lease. Assistant Professor Nancy Lease will direct and accompany the music.

"She Loves Me" was a Broadway hit in the 1960's, with stars Jack Cassidy and Barbara Cook.

The story is set in 1930's Hungary. The two main characters fall in love after writing letters to each other in response to a newspaper ad. The two later discover that they are coworkers, who don't get along with each other, in a perfume shop.

"There are a lot of twists in the story," Brueck said. "Georg, my character, gets fired from the shop because the owner (played by Chris Muller-Bergh) thinks Georg is fooling around with his wife."

Brueck likes the character of Georg. "He's a lot like myself," he said.

"It's a fun show," said Lease, who praised the "top drawer music" and lyrics written by the team of Jerry Bock and Sheldon Harnick, who were also responsible for "Fiddler on the Roof."

Lease said the show is much like "Romeo and Juliet," but with a happy ending. "There are no hidden meanings here," he said. "It's just a love story, with beautiful music."



Darcy Lease and Brian Brueck star in the Broadway hit, "She Loves Me," scheduled for performance in the Clarke music hall March 10-12. (Photo by Molly Menke)

Opinion

Commentary

Pro-lifers deluded

by Nancy Fox

As Karen approached the abortion clinic on Dubuque Street in Iowa City last week, an anti-abortion picket accosted her in an attempt to save her from herself. He pleaded, begged, rationalized and shouted, but Karen merely stared at him. The man redoubled his efforts, insinuating that she was a murderer. Karen became angry. "How dare he?" she thought.

When she returned to her dorm room, she told me what had happened. We shared a bitter laugh. Karen's not pregnant. It just happens that she passes the clinic on her way home from work every day.

I wasn't surprised by the man's rash behavior. The one word that universally describes anti-abortion activists is presumptuous. They presume to know what's best for everyone. They presume they have the innate right to force their beliefs onto others.

Now that the Supreme Court is examining a case that may overturn Roe v. Wade (the landmark case that legalized abortion in 1973), these presumptuous people are having a political heyday. They spout their tedious lists of conveniently edited statistics and half-truths louder now than ever. They badger innocent people in the name of justice and humanity. Many resort to physical violence, bombing medical facilities or forcefully preventing women from entering clinics. These extremists are obviously confused. They don't know whether it's more fun to protect human rights or destroy them.

The extremists are not alone in their confusion. Anti-abortionists claim that only 3 percent of abortions are performed because of rape, incest, fetal abnormality or danger to the mother's health. Sorry, but I just don't buy that. I maintain that every abortion is performed specifically because of the mother's welfare, be it physical, psychological or sociological.

Not everybody is bred into the white-collar world of middle-class America. Those of us who weren't have to work our way up. This is especially difficult for women. It's virtually impossible for an

unwed mother. Adoption isn't always the answer. Pregnancy is a risky business in which the woman puts her health on the line. She can't work or go to school during the entire nine months. Abortion is more practical and far less expensive.

Another "statistic" that makes me laugh whenever I read it is that 10-30 percent of all women who have abortions suffer from long-term psychiatric problems. Give me a break. A woman is guaranteed to suffer short and long-term physical, mental and social problems after giving birth to an unwanted child. If anything, abortion places the odds in the woman's favor.

Anyway, the real issue isn't why women have abortions, it's whether or not they have the right to choose not to have a child. This is an extremely delicate and personal decision that only the people directly involved should make.

Most anti-abortionists can't identify with these women. Let's face it, how many anti-abortionists have ever had to worry about an unwanted pregnancy? The majority are men or well-meaning but inexperienced women. They simply wouldn't be affected by laws prohibiting abortion. Yet, these people believe that they alone know what is right and what is best. Anti-abortionists are dangerously deluded.

A key fact that the so-called "pro-lifers" refuse to recognize is that abortion has and will always exist. History proves that making something illegal doesn't make it go away. Abortion clinics will simply revert to the unsanitary underground meat shops that they were prior to 1973. The death toll will expand to include the thousands of young girls who seek treatment from the untrained witch doctors that will once again open shop.

And what of the 3 percent whose unwanted pregnancies result from rape or incest? Should these women be further victimized by a law designed by ill-informed moral children that still believe there are simple solutions to all of life's evils? The anti-abortionists want justice and humanity. Well, "Physician, heal thy self."

Reader: Look at both sides of issue

I read the two articles in the February 10th issue on abortion. Greg talks of the "magical" feeling of protest marching and that "an intelligent era does not include the killing of unborn children." The Project Life letter talks of "right to life and the unborn baby." Flowery speech and emotional appeal (face it, the "facts" were chosen for their tug-at-the-heart value) are rampant these days. I'm not going to debate the rights and wrongs of abortion. I know my feelings on the issue and they aren't all that different from the pro-lifers' views.

However, I recognize and acknowledge some things that few people have really sat down and thought about. So, with this letter, I would like to challenge the right-to-life advocates to expand their thinking to include some other issues.

Teen pregnancy is not going to go away. We've tried education classes and made contraceptives easily available, but children are still getting pregnant. When a young woman finds herself faced with an unwanted pregnancy and she doesn't want to have an abortion, she has two choices: keep the baby or give it up for adoption.

Oftentimes, I hear pro-lifers advocate adoption. Obviously, they have never given a child up for adoption. The pain, guilt and anger that a woman goes through after this experience is unbelievable. You relive it every day. At first, you feel the pain as you remember that one short glimpse of your child. Later, the pain comes when you

realize that you can't remember what your child looked like.

You have other children and you love them. But, when they are tucked in their beds at night, with that peaceful look on their sleeping faces, your heart cries out for the other child that should be tucked in along beside them.

What if the young woman keeps the child? If she's very lucky, her parents will be supportive. She might finish high school, but it's very doubtful that she'll go to college. It becomes very easy to resent the child. Abuse is common. Poverty is the norm. Two children become the victims: the mother and baby. Another generation of undereducated and underemployed is born.

Concentrate some of your excitement, indignation and energy on the problems that face those babies and the children who are raising them. Until these problems can be solved, examine your conscience. Love, welfare and a child cannot raise another child. Is it any less an outrage that children are abused, hungry and cold?

I don't expect to change your feelings on abortion. I want you to understand why young women choose abortion. I want you to commit yourselves to spending just as much time on helping women who choose not to have abortions as you spend on getting Roe v. Wade overturned. If you raise your voice in anger over abortion, then shout for those children who are alive and need your help.

Lisa L. Jacobson



Junior art major Sara Kahle's latest creation, titled "Daylight Saving II," stands sentinel on the third floor of Eliza Kelly Hall. Kahle created the work as part of her creative drawing class using airbrush and pencil. (Photo by Kelly D. Smith)

Letter to the editor

White walls darken mood

I have never written to the Courier with my concerns before, but this is not to say I never wanted to. Many events have taken place affecting student life and I have wanted to bring these to attention. I decided a letter emphasizing only the negative would be a poor way to express my feelings. Now, however, I see events occurring that I must address.

Before I came to Clarke I didn't have many chances to visit the campus. I came without knowing what living on campus would be like, or even what the dorms were like. My first room was on third floor MJH, Purple Doom Wing, as it was proudly called then. Purple Doom became a sort of brotherhood. We were not a gang or a cult, just a group of friends. Being a Purple Doomer helped me fit in and made me enjoy life at Clarke. Our walls were painted the school colors, royal purple with a gold stripe. This color was warm and friendly despite the "doom" implication.

The union was the next greatest thing about life at Clarke. It was a hang out for many people. Business slacked off when they stopped serving alcohol and closed Mary Fran, but the union remained the best place for on-campus dances and Course 9:20. It had a warm, cozy atmosphere and was very informal, a great place to relax or let loose. The walls and carpeting were purple and, though the interior design had a lot to do with it, the color set the mood.

Now things are changing. I feel as if there is someone on a mission to whitewash Clarke. Last year all the rooms and halls in Mary Ben were painted cotton white. Before returning this year, Purple Doom and its counter part, Eagle Wing, were painted the same safe, emotionless cotton white. Many other walls around campus got the same treatment. Now the union has been attacked.

First semester, union hours were severely cut, coin operated pool tables were put in and the food card was banned. The best thing the union had going for it was the big-screen T.V., which was stolen early in the semester. I was really glad when the hours were increased this term, the pool tables were free and they had replaced the T.V. I thought that the union had been resurrected, but the other day when I entered the union I was not greeted with the warm friendly color I once knew, but was slapped in the face with glaring, formal, white walls. As I was waiting for my order, I had a good look around. The union was making me feel very uncomfortable. It was too bright and

very unfriendly. I want to make a plea to whomever is responsible for the whitewash. Please stop it. You're making things uncomfortable for the rest of us.

Finally, I would like to make two points. First, it was stated in the Courier that the admissions office is interested in attracting males to Clarke, yet the walls that are not white are light pastels, which are stereotypically feminine colors. Second, Clarke's school colors are royal purple and gold. We should be proud to display them. They aren't light violet and mellow yellow, and they certainly aren't cotton white.

Joseph Borella

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The Courier welcomes input from members of the Clarke community. Please send comments to P.O. Box 846, Clarke College. Letters must be signed and are subject to editing for space.

The Courier is a member of the Associated Collegiate Press and holds a First-Class Honor Rating from the National Scholastic Press Association.



Announcements, B

The "Unsung Heroes" will perform in the Auditorium Thursday, March 9 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. as a part of the continuing Art Series.

S. Louise Kames, assistant professor of art, was chosen to compete in two juried art shows recently. Kames won a Purchase Award for her print "Burning Bush" at the 2nd Bradley University Print and Drawing Exhibit at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill. and will have a second print, "Oracle," on display in The Boston Printmakers' 41st North American Print Exhibit at the Arts Institute of Boston from April 5 to May 17.

Aquas, a chamber ensemble specializing in modern music, will perform in the Auditorium Music Hall on Tuesday, March 7 at 8 p.m. as part of the 1988-89 Cultural Events Series. The concert is free and open to the public.

Junior art student Sara Merkes will have her work displayed at the Brunner Gallery and Museum in Ames from March 12 to April 16 as part of the Iowa College Salon XI.

Applications for the Teacher Education Grant offered by the Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Lambda Chapter, are due March 15. For more information contact S. Mary Angela Buser at extension 311 or in room 105 MJH.

The Crusaders lost their last regular-season game to the St. Ambrose Fighting Bees. Jim Horacek's 19 points paced the men of St. Ambrose in their 10-point victory over



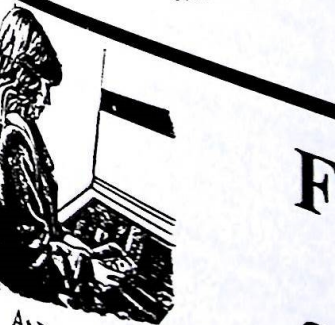
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Feature

Announcements, Briefs & Coming events

The "Unstrung Heroes" will perform in the Atrium Thursday, March 9 from 11:45 a.m. to 1 p.m. as a part of the continuing Atrium Lunch Series.

a b c

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Jim Horacek's 19 points paced the men of St. Ambrose in their 10-point victory over

the Crusaders Saturday night, Feb. 25, at Dubuque Senior High School.

Keith Sanders led the Crusaders with 31 points.

a b c

Applications for the Clarke College Scholarship of Merit will be accepted until April 14, 1989. For more information contact the Financial Aid Office.

a b c

The Campus Variety Show and Auction will take place on Thursday, March 16 at 8 p.m. in the union. Pre-show entertainment will begin at 7:45 p.m. Anyone interested in donating their time or services to the event should contact Patti Hunter or S. Katherine Ann Beckman by March 9.

a b c

Clarke has received a \$5,319 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy Institutional Conservation Program. The money will be used to underwrite the cost of assessing the need for reduction of energy consumption in CBH and the Computer Center.

a b c

The third annual Health Professional Recruitment Day will be held from noon to 3 p.m. Thursday, March 9, at Northeast Iowa Technical Institute. For more information contact Louise Ottavi at 588-6302.

a b c

Applications for the Beckman Service Grant, posted on bulletin boards near the cafeteria and first floor CBH, are due by March 15, 1989.

a b c

Brother and Sister Weekend begins tonight with registration from 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. in the union.

Brother-Sister Weekend

by Erin Lawler

A full slate of activities is planned for the weekend of March 3-5, Brother and Sister Weekend, when the campus will be invaded by students' siblings.

The weekend will begin at 8 p.m. Friday in the union, with a "nerdy" performance by Hornby K. Fletcher called the "Nucleus of Nerdity." Fletcher has performed on such television shows as "Donahue" and CBS's "Morning Program." He encourages everyone to "be there and be square." Fletcher should provide what event planners wanted—a person that could perform for all age groups.

The "nerd" theme will be carried on into a sock hop featuring music by disc jockies Lennie and Lonnie Behnke. There will be a nerdiest dance contest and a nerd look-alike contest. The dance will end at midnight.

Saturday morning brings Cartoon Mania for the young and the young at heart. Both televisions in the Union will show cartoons while breakfast is served.

The afternoon's activities will start at 1 p.m. with a Jump Rope for Heart exercise. Junior Olympics will follow at 3 p.m. Both events will take place in the PAC. There will be an open-pool period during the Junior Olympics, and some of the games will take place in the pool.

The afternoon's activities will conclude

with a special liturgy in the Sacred Heart Chapel at 5 p.m. Dinner at Clarke Square is scheduled to follow at 5:45 p.m.

Saturday night vans will depart at 7 p.m. from the Mary Josita lobby for roller skating at Skate Country. A special rate will be offered to Clarke students for skate rental, and the \$10 fee charged to brothers and sisters will cover all skating expenses.

Upon return from Skate Country, students and their siblings will be treated to midnight movies in the Terrace Lounge.

The weekend's activities will conclude for brothers and sisters after brunch on Sunday morning. For Clarke students, however, Larry James is hosting his annual beach party, giving everyone the opportunity to get a little relaxation before returning to the classroom on Monday.

Each of the weekend's activities is open to all students, faculty and staff. Additionally, faculty and staff have the option of "loaning" their son or daughter to a Clarke student to adopt for the weekend.

Senior Keith Sanders is hosting Health Services Director Julie Hemmer's son for the weekend. "I don't know what to expect," he said. "I just want both of us to have a good time." Sanders said he hopes to be a good role model for his guest.

Faculty and staff members who are interested in the "adoption" program should contact Patti Hunter at extension 450.

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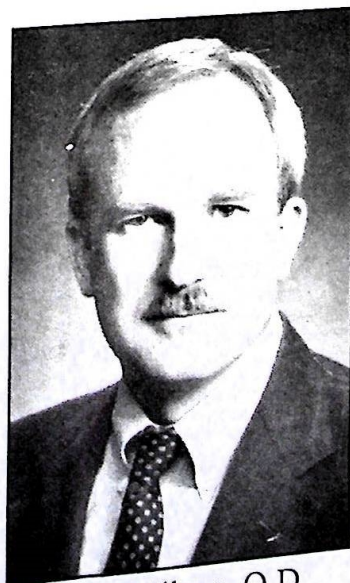
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Students aid homeless in D.C.

by Rachel Schlader

On the week of March 17, students and faculty from Clarke and Loras are traveling to Washington, D.C. to help the homeless. Those participating from Clarke are: Rachel Bell, Amy Farley, Merideth McCarthy, Julie McClung and S. Marge Clarke.

Homelessness is a growing epidemic. There are 10 million homeless people in the United States today. This figure gets larger as housing costs increase.

People are homeless for various reasons. Some lost their jobs and were unable to support a family or pay their bills. Some are psychiatric patients released from institutions because of budget cutbacks. Since affordable housing is difficult to find, some are stuck living on the streets.

Welfare isn't always a solution. Some people can't get welfare payments because they have no permanent residence. These people fall through the cracks in the system.

The Clarke-Loras group will stay at the Jonah House. From there they will visit the 2nd Street Shelter, a place for the homeless. About 2,000 people go through the shelter every day and 50 people are turned away every night.

Marty Roddy went on the trip last year. He said, "The homeless are younger than you'd think. There are 20 to 30-year-olds there that can't afford apartments."

McCarthy said, "I think it will be a good

experience. Marty and Michelle [Miesen] went last year and had a wonderful experience. I worked in a shelter in Chicago. Most of them are beautiful people that have had terrible setbacks."

Other than working in the shelter, the group will demonstrate for the homeless

and will work closely with the Jonah House, which does non-violent resistance against the injustices done to the poor. They will demonstrate at the Pentagon in shifts.

"Civil disobedience makes people aware," McCarthy said. "You don't accomplish a lot by violence."

Another part of the trip is meeting with and talking to legislators. The group is pushing the Jesse Gray Housing Bill, which provides for 500,000 new houses per year for the next ten years. Homeless people would be given jobs building and repairing these homes.

Easter Egg Hunt set for March 12

by Christen Sadowski

The Easter Bunny is coming early to Clarke College in a special event designed for underprivileged children.

The resident assistants of Mary Benedict Hall are sponsoring an Easter Egg Hunt for these children on Sunday, March 12, from 2-4 p.m. in the cafeteria. Everyone is invited and encouraged to help.

Eggs may be purchased in the Union or the cafeteria during lunch and dinner hours from Mar. 1-10, for 50 cents each.

"You can help through buying eggs or by donating candy, stuffed animals or Easter toys," said Patti Hunter, director of student activities and resident director of Mary Benedict Hall. "We encourage everyone to come to the cafeteria to help on Sunday and share the spirit of the occasion."

The schedule calls for stories and games in which the children will make Easter baskets. There will be an Easter egg hunt

outside on the campus grounds if weather permits, indoors if the weather does not cooperate. Most eggs will be filled with candy donated by students, and some will hold numbers for bigger prizes to be awarded later.

The activities will target less fortunate children from kindergarten through fourth grade in Dubuque public and Catholic schools.

Clarke's annual Mitten Tree Party served as the inspiration for the Easter egg hunt. Every year a number of children attend the Christmas party that is designed to entertain them and let them participate in the holiday. The Easter egg hunt is designed to help them in the same way. The intention of the activity is to help those less fortunate.

Hunter is overseeing the project. She said that Easter is often a less emphasized holiday. "People tend to forget about Easter compared to Christmas," she said.

"Since Clarke is a Catholic school, and Easter is a celebrated holiday in the Church, we should help those that are underprivileged in celebrating a holiday that might otherwise be passed over."

New skiing team formed at Clarke

by Todd Steege

In January, Clarke students returning from vacation found a new activity—skiing—offered at Clarke.

The idea was originated by junior Eric Hyatt. With Clarke's help, he entered the school as a team in the city league races at Sundown on Tuesday nights.

Each skier ran the race twice, once on each course. In the seven-race series Clarke placed ninth out of nine teams.

Freshman Jim Wachtel attributed the poor standing to a lack of participation. "People would say they were going to show up and never would," he said.

Another factor was the lack of a female skier. According to the rules, each team must possess at least one female member. Clarke's team, missing their only female member due to injury, incurred a penalty that made them ineligible to place.

Next year, however, Clarke may be able to compete, and not just in a city league. Clarke has a chance of becoming the only college in the area to offer collegiate-level skiing as a sport. This is the brainchild of Adult Services Coordinator Mark VanOsdol.

Todd Flack has agreed to coach the team should it get approved by the board of trustees. Flack has been on the Pro Tour for three years and was a professional ski instructor as well as a tester for the Professional Ski Instructor Association. "He's one of the best," said Wachtel.

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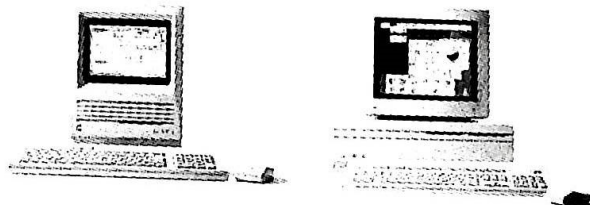
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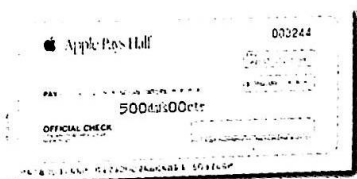
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Sports

Clarke forms softball team

by Greg Chesmore

For the first time since the 1970s, Clarke will field a women's softball team, which will eventually enter competition in the Midwest Catholic Conference.

Featuring an active roster of 16 women, Clarke will compete for one year as an independent team before joining the MCC. Conference rules require a team to com-

pete for one year before officially joining the league.

Led by first-year Head Coach Vickie Hansen and Assistant Coach Maggie Dittburner, the team has high hopes for the upcoming season.

"There is a lot of talent," Dittburner said. "It's exciting because we have viable pitching talent already."

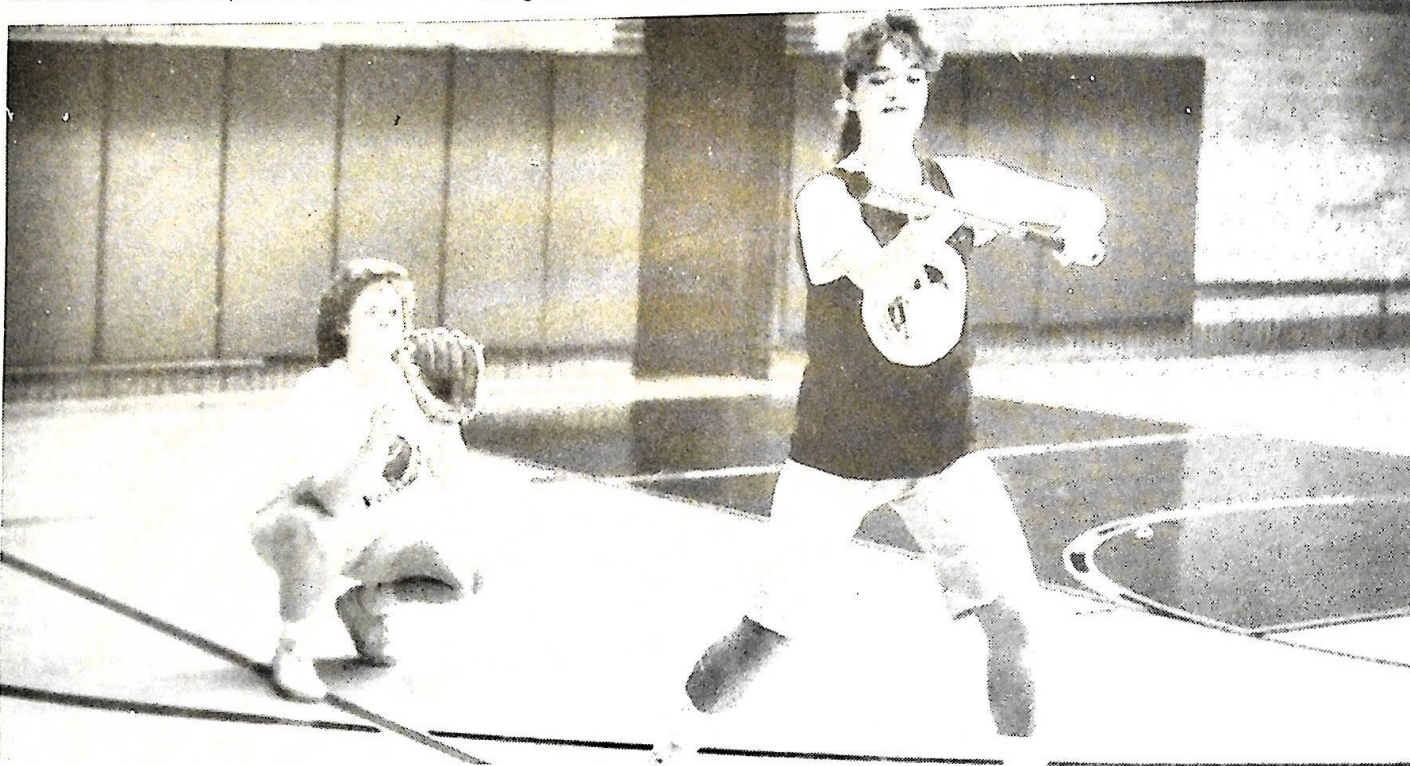
Although interest for softball is not new at Clarke, no organized team was formed in the past. Instead, interested women participated in city leagues or intramurals. Dittburner believes softball is the sport of choice today for many athletic women, making a new softball team a must.

While many of the team's games will be played on the road, Clarke will use Senior

High School's diamond for its home games. "Obviously it would be nice to have our own diamond, but without Senior's diamond we wouldn't be able to play any said.

Dittburner believes the softball team is emotionally ready for the season. "The team is excited. Vickie Hansen is as fired up as you can find anyone right now, and she is rubbing off on the players," Dittburner said.

Clarke will open up its season at home against Grinnell College March 31 and will face the University of Dubuque Lady Spartans for a doubleheader April 1.



Vanessa Van Fleet practices bunting, while Penny Heister crouches behind her for the catch. [Photo by Molly Menke]

Clarke men reach NAIA District 15 tournament

by Bob Axtell

The Clarke College men's basketball team qualified for the NAIA District 15 tournament. The Crusaders' first-round game was played March 1 against Dordt College in Sioux Center, Iowa.

The Crusaders managed to edge out Mount Mercy College, Cedar Rapids, and Grandview College, Des Moines, in the District 15 standings. Clarke, with a record of 13 wins and 12 losses, is one of the top six teams in the district.

According to senior Co-Captain Jody Kolker, the rankings are determined not just by the number of wins and losses but by a point system. The Crusaders receive points according to other teams' records, where the game is played, and what the record is at the time. They also get points for a win and sometimes for a loss, depending on the team they play.

Points proved to be the deciding factor for the Crusaders. The Clarke men are averaging 2.56 points per game compared to Grandview's average of 2.46 points per game. The Crusaders were about three-tenths of a point ahead of Mount Mercy, who just barely beat the Crusaders twice this season by margins of three or four points.

The Crusaders, who are in their fourth season, aren't strangers to tournament play. They went to the NLCAA tournament in the program's first year, but this is the first time the Clarke men have clinched an NAIA playoff since joining the division last year.

The Crusaders are ranked sixth in the district. Dordt is third in the district with a record of 17 wins and 8 losses.

Kolker said, "Everybody in the tournament has a chance to win," but only those who are "pumped up" will win. "We'd better be pumped up," he said. "It's a big game for us and for our fans."

"If we continue to play well together we will win," Kolker said. "This is a great opportunity, especially since for a few of us, it's our last year."

In the senior's last year, under new head Coach Ed Colbert, the Crusaders have a chance to finish for the first time with more wins than losses. "Coach Colbert set our goals at having a winning season and making it to the NAIA playoffs. Now that we have made them both we'll have to work on accomplishing some short range goals on winning each game as they come," said Kolker.

Taking one game at a time is exactly what the Crusaders are going to do. Each game will only get tougher. Other teams in the District 15 tournament are: St. Ambrose College, Davenport, Iowa; Westmar College, Le Mars, Iowa; Briar Cliff College, Sioux City, Iowa; and Northwestern College, Orange City, Iowa. St. Ambrose leads the field with 20 wins and only seven losses.

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